



ERG NEWS

GB3DA GB3ER GB3CMS

ISSUE No 4 SEPT 96

Welcome

Welcome to this the fourth News letter from the Essex Repeater Group keeping the members informed of what is happening with all the groups boxes. If anybody has any input they wish to share with the membership please send it to the editor G6ZVV (QTHR) for inclusion. In this edition we have received 4 articles from members for inclusion. The first is from Alan G0TTM, the second is from Bob G0RSW and the other 2 from Kris G6PZT. More articles from members would be nice.

Nigel G6ZVV

The Southend & District Radio Society

The Southend & District Radio Society is one of the oldest radio clubs in the country, last year seeing the celebration of our 75th Anniversary. The highlight of which was a Rally at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend. The club was originally known as the Wireless Society of Southend-on-Sea, becoming the Southend & District Radio & Scientific Society in 1923, being issued with the call 5QK.

In 1932 the Society installed a wireless system in Southend General Hospital which included headphones, pillow phones, loudspeakers etc. A plaque is still in place to commemorate the work undertaken by club members. The club was renamed to it's present form in 1947, having previously acquired the G prefix to become G5QK in 1946.

Through the years, the club has met in a variety of locations. We now meet at the Druid

Venture Scout Centre in Southend, this is located next to the dual carriageway heading down towards Southchurch & Thorpe Bay, just past the Waitrose Supermarket & Wellesley Hospital.

The club meets on Thursday evenings at about 8pm, new faces are always welcome, as are any past members. We try to get the club station on the air once a month, so look out for the calls G5QK or G8MRS...

For further details contact Alan, G0TTM (QTHR) or @ GB7WIG.#32.GBR.EU

It is even known for me to be heard on GB3DA on the odd occasion....73's

Quiz Time

25 users of DA but can you put a callsign to the clues ?

1. Bernard Mathews better watch out this chaps will be after his firm.
2. Basildon Baslidon lives in LEGO land I think.
3. Head man that owns the Dent Pushers firm.
4. KOD (G7KOD) used to be the old callsign of this school teacher.
5. They dont like it UP,EM. PIKES that is for this man with a bent for history.
6. A lorry driver with royal connections maybe.
7. A very handy person to know if you need something calibrated.
8. Know body is safe if this nit picker is around.
9. If you dont know who the van driver is, you must be wearing the plumbers ear muffs.
10. This chap loves his wine but hates the Germans, since they bombed our chip shops.

11. Often heard speaking from his coal shed.
12. This chap seem to have a lot of fun with Playnet, and enjoys playing with his woggle.
13. From dawn till dusk and even later sometimes its always "morning" from this G6.
14. Jeff without a J and the fastest callsign speaker on the repeater maybe.
15. He lives in the sunshine state allegedly and runs a BBS.
16. This gentle giant hails from Stoke Newington, but cant wait for his weekend breaks.
17. He and the rest of the family would be at home in Sherwood Forest.
18. You shouldn't be stuck for an answer for this jolly chap.
19. He and Nigel like to play with their balls once a week.
20. You hear more of her than him when they are out together.
21. Potter from Please Sir should lead you to this jobsworth.
22. He covers a large area as a domestic appliance engineer.
23. Often heard mobile as G7HBV but this person does have a novice call.
24. From December to May his intention was to have DA shut down but its all changed now.
25. An early riser that uses the Lea Bridge Road on his way to work in Finsbury Park most days.

If anybody knows the answers to all these clues send them to Nigel G6ZVV or Dick G4GUJ by 17th October 1996. All the correct entries will be put into a hat and the first correct entry drawn will entitle the entrant to a free years subscription to the group for the next year.

For those of you who are not sure of all the answers still give it ago you never know you could still win. The answers for all the clues will be given in the next edition of the ERG NEWS. Thanks to Bob G0RSW for writing all these clues.

This quiz is open to anybody except those members of the ERG committee and those who were involved in writing the clues, (they know who they are so do I).

Do we REALLY mean what we say?

A light-hearted review of comments heard on GB3DA/GB3ER Repeaters, and more importantly, some well deserved explanations.

Da Di Dah..... "You cant talk over the Kay". No, this is true. But you cant talk under it either! Obviously the Kay is a "Supreme Being" who has the power to drown out all who dare to steal his/her/it's air-time.

"Will sign now, I'm here". Well you cant be "here" cos I cant see you, so it follows you must be somewhere else then....

"The box is a good signal here at Gants Hill". That's as maybe, but has said roundabout got a flyover? Yes, well then its Gallows Corner. So you're a LOT closer then!

"Will someone PLEASE tell me where the A1 junction is on the M25". You can rely on these "Dent Pushers" to get lost....

"Right I'll pass it round to The Van Driver". Deathly silence follows, you definitely CAN'T rely on a Courier....

"From G6??? both mobile in the group". Well that's a highly contentious one. Fancy assuming - nay positively stating the "other station" is mobile....

"Blah - blah - blah HI". I thought HI was a CW expression for laughter, which can be uttered via a microphone easier than a morse key. So why not just laugh - that's if you have actually said summat funny....

One person dont get much wrong, just keeps waffling away until he "times out" YET AGAIN - and AGAIN - and AGAIN. You'll be intrigued to know whom.... "There's far too many mobiles on here, can't work the DX just now" Hmmm a comment from a certain "fixed station" in S. Essex. I wonder if the E.R.G. supply the QSL cards? Nah - the bloke aint paid his Subs.... (allegedly)

"G???? listening for any calls". Well clearly all calls are possible, its the replies that are the problem....

"Calling CQ to the Continent". Which one in particular? I thought the UK was in Europe....

"We are just joining the A12, and we're making good time".

A certain G4 who IS traveling ALONE, perhaps he's Royalty?

Flight Simulation

Keith, G6NHU

A number of repeater users have commented on my interest of Flight Simulation and I thought it would be nice to share my enthusiasm for this subject.

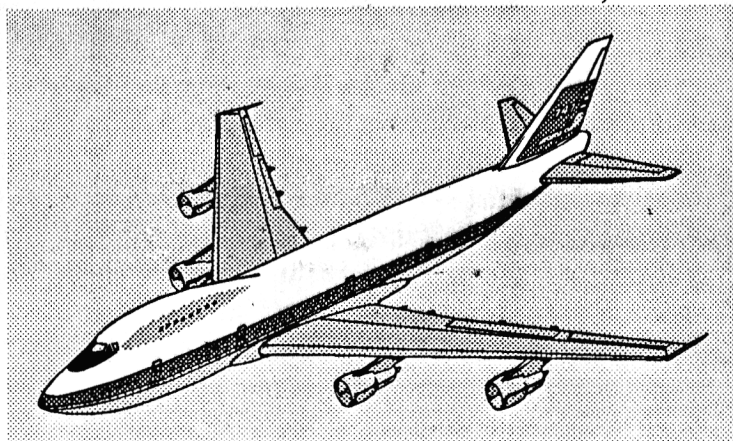
Current spec Pentium based PCs lend themselves perfectly for good quality flight simulation, with smooth flowing, photorealistic scenery that works extremely well and all adds to the enjoyment of visual flying.

Many people will have Microsoft Flight Simulator (FS) installed on their PC. Looking at the DOS software charts in a popular PC magazine, FS5.1 is always in the top 10 best selling products and often sits at the top, outselling even MS-DOS!

My own personal setup is based on FS5.1, but the installation here is so customised that it's hard to spot much of the original product under all the addons. FS comes with just four aircraft, with only two being of real use for general aviation and the other two being more specialist. The two main aircraft are a Cessna 182 and a Learjet 35. The other two are a glider and a Sopworth Camel which is ideal for crop spraying, but not much else!

The first main add-on that I have installed is a piece of software that's called Flight Shop for Flight Sim. It is primarily an aircraft designer that allows the creation of absolutely any type of aircraft, from the original Wright Flyer to the newest in large civil aircraft, the Boeing B777. I have over 120 aircraft available for me to fly, including 6 helicopters and several seaplanes. These add-on aircraft are usually distributed FREE by people who have designed them via Compuserve and the Internet. Some companies sell add on aeroplanes, but the quality of the free ones is generally just as good. Secondly, FSFS allows for flights to be controlled by Air Traffic Control. Flight details can be entered, and the ATC 'adventure' compiled. When the adventure is run, a speaking Controller guides you from your parking spot to the runway, gives you takeoff clearance, and once airborne and en-route will provide talking assistance all the way to the destination airport and guides you down to the point at which you will be lined up, about 10 miles away from landing!

Although FSFS opens up FS with a wide range of extra aircraft, there are still only the two aircraft control panels available. It's a bit strange flying a Dakota with a Cessna panel, or a Boeing B747-400 with a Learjet panel, so to



help this, a large number of panel designers have produced add-on panels. For example, I have dedicated panels based on DC-3, DC-7, MD-80, B727, B737, B747, B777, Pilatus PC-7, Cessna 152, Beech BE55 and many others.

To get the real 'feel' of flying, the correct controls are essential. It's all very well flying with the keyboard, or a mouse but I found that too unrealistic. I have a dedicated flight yoke, complete with throttle control bolted to my desk, and a set of rudder pedals mounted on the floor below!

With the large amounts of extra scenery available for FS (both commercial and free packages), flying anywhere in the World is possible. Included with these scenery packages are large numbers of real world navigation beacons, so it's possible to look at real navigation charts and plan your routes from them. If charts aren't available, then there are a number of computer programs that will provide flight routes.

As can be seen from the above, a lot of effort is being made to make simulated flying as realistic as possible. I have only discussed Microsoft Flight Simulator here, but there are a number of other simulators available, dedicated to different areas of aviation, from military to aerobatics. With PC specification getting higher and higher very quickly, who knows what the future will bring.

I will finish this with a comment from a real 747 pilot: "It is possible now, with a £35 piece of PC software to run a better simulator than I had when I learned to fly the original Boeing 747, and that cost over £30,000,000".

Wot No Repeaters or Packet!

Yes its strange to imagine a band WITHOUT either, but, there are several. This is the route I took to one of them. Firstly a potted history of your scribe's leanings (radio-wise that is) Back in the mid 80's I joined up with a VHF/UHF Contest Group, which after a few years grew into our present format. Namely The Winbreakers C.G. - G0VHF which is the groups Contest Callsign. Our usual site is on the clifftop at Walton on the Naze, Bands used are from 50Mhz to 24Ghz (All of them!) guess I was spoilt at such a good site, but I really enjoyed 10Ghz operation with several "methods" of enhanced conditions. ie: rain scatter, a distant cloud of rain between "us and them". Similar to Sp.E on the VHF Bands, said rain clouds are basically a "mirror in the sky" to reflect signals from. I hear you say that 10Ghz is "line of sight" only.... Oh how wrong you are, our group currently holds the UK distance record on 10Ghz at 1185Km. From Walton to the North of Germany! I am currently building for this band myself, using a Transverter system from a 144Mhz source. The source is a multi-mode transceiver and the 10Ghz output is narrow band, ie: SSB/CW and FM if needed. The transverter is built in modular form in separate tin-plate boxes. The design is well tried and tested by quite a few stations worldwide. The modules come in kit form, so can be obtained as funding allows. If built in a logical order a certain amount of "self test" can be done. The basic modules are as follows:-

- i) 2556Mhz Oscillator.
- ii) Rx Converter.
- iii) Tx Converter.
- iv) Rx Pre-amp.
- v) 300mW P.A.
- vi) Suitable dish Antenna with feed.

iv and v are optional, to be added later for enhanced operation. The kits are available from the RSGB Microwave Committee Components Service. As for prices at this time i) = £6.86 for

the pcb only. Mostly common components apart from the crystal (106.5Mhz 5th overtone) about £25 should cover all, depending on your junkbox. ii) = £42.70 and iii) = £49.03 These two kits are complete less boxes and a few GaAsFET's. Tinplate boxes are about £2.50 each. So for the basic setup, Items i), ii) and iii) total cost about £150 with a suitable RF relay for Tx/Rx switching.

The logical build sequence is first the local oscillator, it can be aligned without a Frequency Counter but, better to use one. Then build the Rx kit, this again can be aligned without test gear. Save an analogue multimeter, then hooking the 2 modules together a working receiver results (hopefully). If your within range then GB3CMS at Danbury (DA site) on 10,368.960Mhz should be heard. I can hear it in my shack (NW Chelmsford) using open waveguide aimed at Danbury!! Using an 18" dia dish at shoulder height the beacon is end-stop. For those that be starting to get interested in this project take note - its not a few hours work with the soldering iron and away we go. It contains many surface mount devices and the GaAsFET's are VERY static sensitive and also VERY VERY small. So proper attention to Static Discharge Techniques, small soldering iron tip and possibly an illuminated magnifying lamp will be par for the job. Having said that, I'm no boffin nor do have Mr. Marconi's labs at my disposal anymore. All built in my shack over about 3 months, so it can be done. I'm the 3rd one on 10Ghz in Essex at this time, although others are building right now. So Essex is a "rare County" on 10Ghz., using the DX Cluster and/or calling on 144.185Mhz can/will elicit some activity. A very keen and dedicated bunch are to be found, all seem only too willing to share hints, tips etc... and more importantly, they are very patient. Even if it takes 30 minutes to make a 2 way QSO - no problem.

Finally, at last - full details have been published in RadCom over the years and with each kit comes a booklet detailing technical spec., build sequence and parts list etc... Completed modules fit in a 10"x10"x4" waterproof box, so can be mounted up mast/tower or mounted on a tripod for Portable operation from a hilltop.

From the pen of Kris G6PZT - 1996

WANTED

This is a plea from the committee for help from members and other amateurs. If anybody can help we are looking for safety belts, for those members that are mad enough to climb the mast to wear. The belts ideally need to be full harnesses with more than one fixing point for fall arrest couplings. If anybody is able to help with this appeal please contact the editor (G6ZVV) or G4GUJ both QTHR.

Another appeal from the group is due to the loss of the present site for the repeaters and 10GHz beacon. We are looking for possible new site(s) in and around the Danbury area. If any body can suggest new sites that may be suitable to locate all or even just one of the units please contact Clive G1EUC. As he is collating all suggestions that are made. If you do have a suggestion, before making any approach to anybody regarding sites please do contact Clive to prevent multiple approaches being made to prospective site owners. The points to consider for new sites are height, accessibility and facilities for mounting the antennae.

Clive can be contacted on (01245) 224577 .

OBITUARY

It is with great regret that we have to report the death of Ron Wade, (many people will know of Ron and Bet from Colchester). This sad news was a great shock to the committee and many other members of the group and we would all like to express our sense of great loss to Bet. The committee sent a card and were represented at the funeral.

Suggestion time

By the time you all read this most of you will have received your a.g.m. calling notices and will know about the repeaters being off the air for some time. During this time Malcolm will be updating the repeaters logic. If there is anything that you would like to see in the logic that is not already there or would like something changed that is already in operation contact Malcolm G3XVV. No promises will be made that suggestions will be incorporated but he will try to please as many people as possible. Malcolm may be contacted by various methods including packet, e-mail, on the radio or even good old snailmail (royal mail).

If you wish to join the Essex Repeater Group please fill in this coupon and return it to D Merrell, G4GUJ, 40 Fanton Walk, Shotgate, Wickford, Essex. or come along and see us at any of the Essex Rallies at the groups table.

NAME

CALLSIGN.....

ADDRESS

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